

Wetland Identification Service and Artificial Wetland Exemptions

Some artificially created wetlands are exempt from state* wetland laws. These exemptions are specifically for:

Landscape features where hydrophytic vegetation may be present as a result of human modification to the landscape or hydrology and for which the department has no definitive evidence showing a prior wetland or stream history that existed before August 1, 1991.

To meet the exemption criteria, the wetland must have been created as a result of human modifications and must lack prior wetland and stream history before August 1, 1991.

Artificially created wetlands that either serve as fish spawning areas or that are passage to a fish spawning area, or that were created as part of a wetland mitigation project are not included under the artificial wetland exemption standards.

The Wetland Identification Program offers a formal review process to help landowners determine if a wetland meets the state's artificial exemption standards.

*These exemptions do not exist in Federal law, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should be contacted for Federal permit determinations.



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Why

- Ensure a consistent, statewide approach for reviewing potentially exempt wetlands
- Improve efficiency related to potential exemption determinations

When

An artificial wetland exemption review is not required for all projects.

For example, if a project is not going to impact a potentially exempt wetland, there is no need to request an exemption review.

An artificial wetland exemption review is required for projects that will be impacting artificial wetlands. Examples of projects that are required to utilize the service include, but are not limited to:

- Filling or grading in a roadside ditch wetland
- A wetland that was created incidental to construction activities.
- Filling or grading in a landscape pond that has wetland characteristics
- Filling or grading in a stormwater treatment device that has wetland characteristics

How

Additional information on the wetland exemption review process can be found here: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wetlands/identification.html>

For More Information Contact:

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